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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A contaminant solubilizing composition comprising:
 - (a) about 1 to about 90 weight percent, based on the weight of the contaminant solubilizing composition, of an ester acid composition consisting essentially of at least one C₁ to C₄ ester of lactic acid;
 - (b) about 1 to about 30 weight percent, based on the weight of the contaminant solubilizing composition, of at least one surfactant; and
 - (c) up to about 98 weight percent, based on the weight of the contaminant solubilizing composition, of at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of water, methanol, ethanol, and isopropanol.
2. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 1, wherein said C₁ to C₄ ester of lactic acid is derived from a C₁ to C₄ alcohol selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, allyl alcohol, butanol, 3-buten-1-ol, t-butanol and sec-butanol and mixtures thereof.
3. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 1, wherein said C₁ to C₄ ester of lactic acid is ethyl lactate.
4. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 1, wherein said C₁ to C₄ ester of lactic acid is present in an amount ranging from about 20 to about 60 weight percent.
5. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 1, wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of isotridecyl alcohol tri-ethoxylate, polyethylene glycol ether of mixed synthetic C₉-C₁₁ fatty alcohols having an average of about 6 moles of ethoxylate, polyethylene glycol ether of mixed synthetic C₁₁-C₁₅ fatty alcohols having an average of 59 moles of ethoxylate, polyethylene glycol (6) nonylphenyl ether, polyethylene glycol (9) nonylphenyl ether, modified alkanolamide alkanolamine, phenol alkoxylates and mixtures thereof.

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6. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 1, wherein said surfactant is derived from at least one C₁₀ to C₁₆ ethoxylated alcohol.
7. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 1, wherein said surfactant is derived from a C₁₂ ethoxylated alcohol.
8. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 1, wherein said surfactant is present in an amount ranging from about 10 to about 20 weight percent.
9. Cancelled.
10. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 1, wherein said solvent is water.
11. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 1, wherein said solvent is present in an amount ranging from about 10 to about 50 weight percent.
12. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 1, further comprising at least one oil scavenger.
13. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 12, wherein said oil scavenger is selected from the group consisting of phosphated ethoxylate blends, stearic acid diethanolamide, sulphated and sulphited natural oils, sulphated and sulphited synthetic oils, polyethylene emulsions, polyethylene glycol esters, ethoxylated lanolin derivatives, fatty acid alkyllamides, and mixtures thereof.
14. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 12, wherein said oil scavenger is a phosphated ethoxylate blend.
15. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 12, wherein said phosphated ethoxylate blend is a blend of phosphated phenol ethoxylate and phosphated castor oil ethoxylate.

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16. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 12, wherein said phosphated ethoxylate blend comprises a blend of about 20 parts phosphated phenol ethoxylate to about 80 parts phosphated castor oil ethoxylate.

17. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 12, wherein said oil scavenger is present in an amount ranging from about 10 to about 20 weight percent, based on the weight of the contaminant solubilizing composition.

18. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 12, wherein said C₁ to C₄ ester of lactic acid is ethyl lactate;
said surfactant is C₁₀ to C₁₆ ethoxylated alcohol;
said oil scavenger is a blend of phosphated phenol ethoxylate and phosphated castor oil ethoxylate; and
said solvent is water.

19. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 18, comprising:

- (a) about 42 weight percent C₁ to C₄ ester of lactic acid;
- (b) about 15 weight percent surfactant;
- (c) about 15 weight percent oil scavenger; and
- (d) about 28 weight percent solvent.

20. (Currently amended) A contaminant solubilizing composition comprising:

- (a) about 1 to about 90 weight percent, based on the weight of the contaminant solubilizing composition, of at least one C₁ to C₄ ester of lactic acid;
- (b) about 1 to about 30 weight percent, based on the weight of the contaminant solubilizing composition, of at least one surfactant; and
- (c) up to about 97 weight percent, based on the weight of the contaminant solubilizing composition, of at least one solvent; and
- (d) about 1 to about 30 weight percent, based on the weight of the contaminant solubilizing composition, of at least one oil scavenger that is a blend of phosphated phenol ethoxylate and phosphated castor oil ethoxylate.

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21. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 20, wherein said C₁ to C₄ ester of lactic acid is ethyl lactate.

22. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 20, wherein said surfactant is derived from at least one C₁₀ to C₁₆ ethoxylated alcohol.

23. (Original) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 20, wherein said solvent is water.

24. Cancelled.

25. Cancelled.

26. (Currently Amended) A contaminant solubilizing composition according to Claim 20, wherein:

said C₁ to C₄ ester of lactic acid is ethyl lactate;

said surfactant is a C₁₀ to C₁₆ ethoxylated alcohol;

~~said oil scavenger is a blend of phosphated phenol ethoxylate and phosphated castor oil~~
ethoxylate; and

said solvent is water.

27 - 57. Cancelled.